



SBE Council on the Stimulus Deal

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SBE Council Comments on Stimulus Deal

....political leaders are missing a "golden opportunity," according to group

Washington, D.C. - While the Small Business & Entrepreneurship Council (SBE Council) is happy that both political parties and the White House are working together to develop policy solutions that attempt to fuel the economy, the advocacy group is somewhat let down by the package struck by dealmakers. An expensing measure that will provide small businesses more incentive to invest in their firms may prove to be somewhat useful, but overall, political leaders are missing a golden opportunity to give the economy convincing and powerful tools that will have lasting value, according to the group.

"The stimulus deal will do little for the economy. In particular, tax rebates never work because they fail to deal with incentives for working, investing and entrepreneurship. Meanwhile, the measures aimed at business are temporary, and too targeted," said SBE Council Chief Economist Raymond Keating regarding the package.

Alternatively, the SBE Council is strongly supporting the Economic Growth Act of 2008 (H.R. 5109), which "gets it right," according to Keating. SBE Council will also continue to work to advance proposals that make temporary tax relief measures permanent, as this policy approach is critical in promoting certainty for businesses.

"The Economic Growth Act of 2008 offers the right policy mix. It would increase investment by allowing all businesses to immediately expense capital expenditures. It would make U.S. corporations and our economy more competitive by lowering the corporate income tax. And critical economic risk taking would get a major boost by indexing capital gains for inflation, and reducing the corporate capital gains tax rate," said Keating.

SBE Council President & CEO Karen Kerrigan added: "Getting the economy back on a robust growth track requires policy changes that will enhance entrepreneurship and investment, which in turn generate faster economic growth, higher incomes and more jobs. Powerful, pro-growth measures like those embodied in H.R. 5109 are ones that are truly meaningful."

SBE Council can be contacted at 703-242-5840. For nearly 15 years the SBE Council, a nonpartisan, nonprofit small business advocacy organization, has been working to protect small business and promote entrepreneurship.

For more information please visit <http://www.sbecouncil.org/>